

8BIT

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALL 8-BIT COMPUTER USERS

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EDITOR'S COLUMN - ISSUE 15

Welcome to issue 15 of 8BIT; the first since the demise of PCW Plus. This was the last newsstand magazine covering 8-bit computers. But all is not doom and gloom here. We have a four page 'Big Feature' on SAM computers and the first in the series on Amstrad's new PcW16 computer and its applications. 8BIT is now produced using four 8-bit computers, including a '16.

Both the SAM and the PcW16, and very good software for them, are still very much in production. For the coverage of computers which are not, see the 'News' and 'Shorts' sections this time and look for the special features on RoutePlanner and LocoScript 4. Both are established programs which have undergone an update.

There is not much *specifically* for the BBC or C64/128 this time, but look out for a big article on the C64 next issue, courtesy of Simon Hillam, plus another on 8-bits and modems by Andrew Fisher. Andrew is a Commodore expert and his article complements 8BIT's recent feature on 8-bit comms which used a PCW.

The Spectrum coverage is a bit light *again* this time too, but something very significant is 'in the pipe'. I hope to have details for publication soon.

I still have the Einstein and Minitel articles to carry forward but, with the ongoing pruning of the small adverts (and some of the display ones), there is more room being freed up for articles.

I hope you enjoy 8BIT as much as I have enjoyed putting it together this time, *despite* the bout of influenza!

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Introduction by Brian Watson:

This is the third in the occasional series on each of the 8-bit machines in turn, and is intended to be the kind of introduction to an unfamiliar computer that might be useful to someone who has just bought, or is considering buying, one second-hand (or in the SAM's case, new) and wants a brief summary of its features and applications. I hope it may also encourage interest in a type of computer the reader does not currently have or use.

In the case of the SAM, it was a computer which, until recently, I knew only a little about. I had had a passing interest in its complicated origins at the time of its launch, but had then assumed it had disappeared. But from September 1994 when I launched this magazine, I noticed that the graphical and printed quality of those magazines sent to me which had been produced on and for the SAM was generally much higher than those done with other 8-bit computers. Having now attended the Northern SAM and Spectrum Show and seen many of them at work in various ways, I believe the SAM has (or had) the potential to be the best of the 8-bit computer generation. Mark Sturdy is one of the most knowledgeable and best writers on the SAM. Now read on.

Before I start, I'd like it to be taken as read from here on that "SAM" refers to both the SAM Coupé and SAM Elite computers. Although the latter superseded the former in 1994, they are both essentially the same machine; the only difference being that the Elite has a printer port built in, whereas the Coupé requires an interface to be added prior to use for printing. Now, with that out of the way, let's start with first principles.

What is a SAM? The last of the old-style 8-bits until the coming of the PcW16, it came into being as late as 1989 and, notwithstanding two short breaks in 1990 and 1992, has been in continuous production ever since. Far from being (popular misconception No 1) a long-forgotten embarrassing failure, it continues to be as well supported, and better in some areas, as any other 8-bit machine.

Due to the way it was launched initially, many people (popular misconception No 2) believe it to be nothing but a glorified Spectrum. The SAM has always been much more than that. It has a 6Mhz, Z80B processor, one or two internal 780k 3½" disc drives, 128 colours, 512 x 192 graphics resolution, a six channel stereo soundchip, 512k memory ... and that's just the standard models. How does PC Soundblaster-standard sound, a 4.5Meg RAM and a standard IDE hard drive sound? The SAM, without any upgrading required - the basic model is all you need for virtually all software, can produce professional standard text output, has a version of Prince of Persia that can match or exceed any other version and runs an art package that could only be described as Archimedes-*****ing. Impressed yet?

The basic specification SAM now, the SAM Elite, is still being sold new and costs £199.99 from West Coast Computers (address at end). It comes with one 3½" disc drive, 32k of ROM and 512k of RAM, BASIC, a manual, and demonstration software. Alternatively, a number of professionally reconditioned units with various hardware specifications are available cheaper (sometimes as low as £80) from the same source. There are a few SAMs which turn up on the second-hand market too, often through the columns of Format, Micro Mart and PC Mart, sometimes with only 256k, but it's quite easy to fit an internal upgrade card. These are very good bargains; a SAM with lots of extra hardware and software will generally go for around £150. You can also add a second drive with the minimum of fuss; it just slots into the front of the machine.

The SAM's ports are used as follows; power (also the TV output - the modulator is built into the SAM's power supply), SCART, Atari-standard joystick, mouse, audio out, cassette (primarily used for sampling), midi in/out/through, network, parallel

printer port (BBC type), 64-pin expansion port. Things you can plug into the latter include an RS232 interface (modem software imminent), up to 4Meg memory upgrades, and a clock/calendar card. And then there's the more interesting things (what even more? - BW).

There's the Quazar surround-sound card from Colin Piggot, for starters. It gives you 16-bit stereo sound, putting the SAM on a par with CD players, and it handles samples too. Software support for it in the form of both games and utilities is very good and there's a regular diskzine called Soundbyte which is dedicated solely to Quazar support. A comparable soundcard on a PC would set you back about £130, the Quazar costs just £53.99.

The most exciting thing to happen for the SAM this year has been the release of SD Software's (note: *not* the CPC/PCW supplier SD Microsystems) long-awaited hard drive interface. For £60 you can attach any PC-type IDE drive right up to 1.2 gigabytes, the largest available. As this is a very recent development, software support hasn't fully filtered through yet, but Steve's Software's SC_Wordpro is superb in its hard drive incarnation, and there's talk of a new version of the Driver GUI. A Windows-type package, addressing 1.2 gigabytes on on-line storage ... on an 8-bit computer.

The SAM's software applications must start with the aforementioned SC_Wordpro. It can produce the best possible output from any 8-bit computer on any printer, from a basic 9-pin up to a laser printer, and recent versions can output in colour. There are dozens of different fonts available, and the graphics (including scanned photos) are right up there with what you'd expect from a professional package. Again it costs far less than an equivalent piece of software on the Posh Computers - £29.99.

Another piece of software that has provoked some excitement is Driver; the WIMP system. I don't think I really need to go into what these things do, but it's very well put together and user-friendly, and ahead of anything on any other 8-bit (cue sound of thousands of C64/128 Geos, CPC DES, and PCW Network users laying siege to the Mark Sturdy household. Unfortunately, he's quite right - BW). It's not Windows '95, and anyone who's tried to use *that* abomination will agree that this is a definite selling point.

For programmers, C has recently appeared and is giving rise to some impressive programming stuff appearing. There's also ProDos, an excellent rendering of CP/M v2.2, and it's rumoured that a version of CP/M Plus (3.?) is also being developed.

There is a very wide range of games available, coded specially for the SAM; superb versions of 16-bit games like Prince of Persia, Lemmings and Escape from the Planet of the Robot Monsters, also 1980s classics like Sophistry and Elite, plus a constant stream of new releases from people like SAM Supplement who put a new release out about every four weeks (incredible compared to the rate of software release rate for other 8-bits these days), and Jupiter Software, whose Amalthea has been described as Alien Breed on the SAM. Nintendo and PoP/Lemmings coder Chris White are denying all rumours of a conversion of Mario 64.

BW's interruption: The SAM was quite wrongly taken up by the press upon release as 'an upgraded Spectrum' because it was cleverly designed to include a Spectrum emulating mode. With the dominance and success of the 'Spectrum standard' for home computer game playing at the time of the SAM's release, this was an obvious feature to include. However it, along with the fact that the two-tone keyboard case made it look rather like a pull-along toy, led to a severe misrepresentation of the SAM as a child's 'play computer' rather than the major advance in home computing which it represented upon its release. Now, back to Mark's exposition ...

The SAM did suffer quite badly from never having a proper newsstand magazine of its own, instead being forced to rely on decidedly patchy support from the Spectrum

glossies, which again tarnished its image. However this did inspire quite a few dedicated users to start up fanzines, giving the SAM a headstart in the homegrown arena where it flourishes to this day.

On paper, there is Format which has been going as long as the SAM and is still the most widely read SAMzine with over 2000 subscribers, apparently. Edited by Bob "I run West Coast Computers but I don't like to talk about it" Brenchley, it offers excellent technical support to its readers and is one of the main focuses (foci?) for serious SAM users. Its masthead claims it to be the home of Z80 computing, which is perhaps rather overstating the case, but it is a good read for all 8-bit computer users interested in programming.

Zodiac, also on paper, offers a wider view of the SAM scene, with games reviews (including adventure coverage) and a comprehensive news section alongside the technical stuff. A mention must go to Based On An Idea. This is professionally produced by professional writers (Simon Cooke used to write for Your Sinclair) who also happen to be supreme authorities on the innards of the SAM. BOAI is, without a shadow of a doubt, the best magazine produced for any 8-bit computer (Oi! - BW). Oh, and there's something called Crashed, but you really don't want to know about that (Oh yes you do, it's excellent - BW *again*). See below for addresses.

There's a great many diskzines around, ranging from long-established Fred and SAM Supplement to more recent additions such as Network Sigma and Daft. Probably the pick of the current crop, however, is Persona Software's Blitz. Edited by graphical genius Steve Pick, Blitz appears every other month and is a beautifully presented sample of everything that's good about the SAM. There's a goodly wodge of well written, entertaining, thought-provoking articles (news, letters, programming, show reports and more), a conversion of a Spectrum classic every issue (Technocop is the latest at the time of writing), games, utilities (like sound samplers and an incredible artificial intelligence thing). If you are still sceptical about the SAM, then get someone to show you Blitz and prepare to be converted.

If you'd like to see a number of SAMs in action, look out in 8BIT for details of the Format-run SAM and Spectrum shows in Gloucester, or the Northern SAM and Spectrum Shows in the Methodist Hall in the middle of Wetherby, Yorks, which are organised by those young scallywags from Crashed. Additionally, there's often an appearance from Format or SAM PD at the Birmingham All-Formats Fairs, the next of which (actually at Cocks Moor Woods Leisure Centre, Kings Heath, Birmingham) is held on 26th January 1997 from 10am - 3pm. The next Northern SAM and Spectrum Show will be held on Saturday 22nd February from 10am - 4.30pm (but get there early to avoid the crush). I'll let you know when the next Format show is on in Gloucester.

Right, that's about it. I hope that this article has at least dispelled a few misconceptions, and if it's aroused the curiosity of even one person out there, then so much the better. If you want to know more about the SAM then send your enquiries to either 8BIT or one of the addresses below. The SAM is, in my opinion, great machine and one well worthy of investigation. Any support that it gains can only benefit the 8-bit scene as a whole.

Mark Sturdy

A P.S. BY THE EDITOR: So there's the case for the SAM presented in 8BIT, at last and overdue. It really is an amazing computer. The early history of the machine have been largely ignored here as it appears to have been a masterpiece of mishandling and bad marketing at the time, but that is not a unique story in computing. What it does mean now, though, after effectively two or three rescues and relaunches is that some supplies of the original components may now be somewhat widely distributed in various hands and inevitably out of balance; thousands of some things and not many left of others. And wouldn't it be some of the things that last the longest of which there are large stocks, binding up warehousing and cashflow resources?

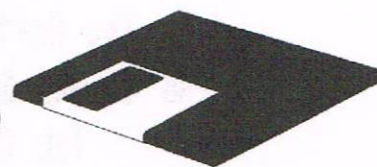
I had a good long conversation with Bob Brenchley, who now controls most of the relevant SAM computer and component stock and (more important) copyrights at the last NSSS about the prospects of the SAM being developed further into a SAM Mk2 of some sort, possibly the Millennium Computer project (see 8BITs passim). What bothers me a little is that, just like the Amstrad CPC, the rights to certain crucial components seems uncertain and that is a complicating factor when looking to incorporate existing features in a new model. However, from the user/hobbyist's point of view this is all to the good, leading to an over-supply and downward pressure on prices of hardware. Certainly one cannot complain about the software prices and, as I said at the beginning, the SC_Wordpro DTP system really is superb.

In the interests of showing off its capabilities, and incidentally including a picture of a SAM computer, I enclose a copy of Steve Nutting's letterhead for his "Steve's Software" business which publishes SC_Wordpro. The original image is in full 'photographic' colour which I hope reproduces fairly when photocopied as part of 8BIT's production process. If it doesn't, it's my fault, not his.

Brian Watson



STEVES SOFTWARE
7 NARROW CLOSE, HISTON
CAMBRIDGE, CB4 4XX
(☎ & FAX 01223 235150 6pm-9pm MON-SAT)
Email SteveSoftware@msn.com



USEFUL ADDRESSES FOR SAM BEGINNERS:

To order a SAM, or for further information, contact Bob Brenchley at West Coast Computers' Mail Order, c/o Format Publications, 34, Bourton Road, GLOUCESTER, Glos GL4 0LE (Tel: 01452 412572). Cheques or Postal Orders only accepted (no credit cards). The same address applies for Format magazine (for a sample copy, send £1.75).

Blitz (£2 per copy), 31 Ashwood Drive, Brandlesholme, BURY, Lancs BL8 1HF

Crashed magazine (£1.50 per copy - smart move!), is available from the editor Allan Clarkson, 16, The Avenue, Manston, LEEDS LS15 8JN

Fred (£2 per copy), 40, Roundyhill, Monifieth, DUNDEE, DD5 4RZ

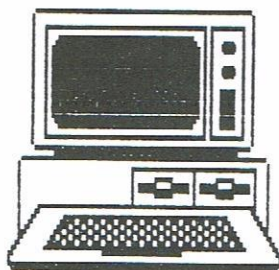
SAM2SAM and Network Sigma (each £2 per copy), 5, Ivanhoe Drive, Westfields, ASHBY DE LA ZOUCHE, Leics LE65 2LT.

SAM Supplement (£2 per copy), 37, Parker Street, Bloxwich, WALSALL, WS3 2LE

Further names, addresses and contact details for all the other SAM suppliers and supporters, including those mentioned here, may be more applicable to existing SAM users but are available for an A4 SAE to 8BIT or any of the above magazines.

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HERE IS THE NEWS

LOCOSCRIPT 4 RELEASED

I must preface this section with a wry smile as I am a partner in the company which owns and publishes **Protext**. You should take that into account in reading the following paragraphs, which nonetheless are as factually true and unbiased as I can make them.

Newly released from LocoScript Software comes LocoScript 4 for all models of PCWs, an upgrade to their previous versions.

The very good news for users buying release 1 is that the program will now be able to arrange text in columns and drive a colour printer too. Ironically, both of these features have been easily achieved with **Protext**, the other principal word processor for the PCW series, for years but it is good to see the larger selling program catching up.

Both features are major selling points of Loco's competitor because of their ease of use. I look forward to seeing how LocoScript achieves the same results.

From LocoScript's pre-release specification sheet it appears that there will be a maximum of just 4 columns per page, and that a minimum of 512k of RAM is required to run the program, or more if you are using "many" fonts.

Neither of these limits apply to **Protext**, which runs in just 256k on a PCW, and can support any numbers of columns on a line up to the number of characters, so up to 150 (or more) columns *could* be used on a line and it's easy to arrange a combination of columns on a page.

For example, in **Protext** you could have two columns of text in the top third of the page, then change to seven columns for a while, then ten columns, then back to two (or one, or thirty, or whatever).

The printer featured as the model

recommended for handling Loco 4's colour output is the Stylus Colour 200 and I understand there will be a special offer on it from LocoScript Software and I assume a free printer driver for the Stylus will be supplied. Whether LocoScript will match **WACCO's** offer of a free printer driver to suit *any* printer including *all* the Canons, *all* the Epsoms, *all* the Hewlett Packards, and *all* the rest, regardless of whether colour output is required or not, is not clear.

Nor is it apparent whether colour changes can be made within a line as **Protext** can do as easily as it can change fonts; that is between each character. In the leaflet it seems that a blank line may need to be left between lines of different colour, but this will be clarified once I receive the review copy I have been promised by Howard Fisher of LocoScript Software (until, I suspect, he reads this). In the mean time, I would welcome a user's report from anyone with actual hands-on experience of using LocoScript 4.

Another feature which is added with this upgrade is the handling of odd and even pages, although it appears that Loco 4 will only work by printing all the odd pages first, then all the evens. Surely not?

While it *can* be desirable to run the paper through one way, then reload the paper hopper with the result and run it through the other, **Protext** has included this for ten years, along with the other option, that of producing 'handed' copies as one continuous run.

Oh, and this release includes the ability to incorporate a height code for n-across labels. Yup, **Protext** already has that too. But LocoScript 4 *still* doesn't include (for the basic program's price) all of the simple but very powerful mail-merge facilities or fast spell-checking options that **Protext** does. Never mind, chaps. Maybe next time?

I said this was release 1. "Early

1997" will see release 2 (which will be supplied free to purchasers of LocoScript 4 release 1). This will add the ability to insert pictures in LocoScript 4 documents. Curses, **Protext** can't do that on a PCW! But then, **Protext** *can* easily produce text files for incorporation into MicroDesign which I suspect may be the program of choice for those with graphical demands on their PCW.

I would be the first to concede that where LocoScript scores over **Protext** is in its use of scalable fonts. These are really excellent, and available in a wide range of options at additional cost from LocoScript Software.

LocoScript Software are shipping release 1 of LocoScript 4 now. Their address for further information or orders is 10, Vincent Works, DORKING RH4 3HJ and their phone number is 01306 747757. **Protext's** advert is on the back page of this issue of **8BIT**.

By the way, to end this short feature, **Protext** no longer appears in the LocoScript catalogue. It has been dropped by them due to poor sales. I would be the first to acknowledge this, but would claim in the program's defence that in the time they were handling it through their catalogue I took four calls from people who had phoned up to order **Protext** from the LocoScript sales office and then had given up and come direct when the LocoScript salesperson tried to talk them out of it in favour of LocoScript, which the customer already had and found it did not do what the customer required of it, whereas **Protext** did.

The fact that **ComSoft**, the main retail outlet for **Protext**, sold loads while LocoScript sold a few may also have something to do with the fact that LocoScript Software's price for **Protext** was set (by them) at £40, while **ComSoft's** price was just £25. I rest my case.

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As well as 8 Bit Computers we also have affiliated groups supporting PC, Amiga, ST, all Consoles and Groups for users who are interested in Fantasy & Role-Play or MIDI & Computer Music.

Membership packs are available from many good computer retailers.

Commodore Scene

Issue 13 of COMMODORE SCENE, the C64 magazine produced by COMPUTER SCENE, is now available. SIXTY EIGHT blockbusting pages of 64 action for just £2.50 UK (£3.00 if coverdisk required).



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HERE IS THE NEWS - contd

paper with a photo of Dana Scully from the X-files with a person who looks more than a little like Sir Clive Sinclair. This is to publicise P.White's new magazine ZX Files which, for the paltry sum of £1.50, can be yours from 30, The Rowans, Wetherby, W Yorks LS22 5EB.

Don't think for a moment I'd fall for such shameless canvassing ...

A LITTLE GEM (RATHER OBVIOUS PUN)

Perhaps to celebrate the closing of PCW Plus, Cirtech are reducing the price of their PCW hard drives. John Robertson writes that they have just bought a lot in cheaply so the reduced prices are strictly 'while stocks last'. Cirtech may be ordered from, or contacted, on 01835 823898.

FROM GEM TO CRYSTAL

Crystal Software are a young company supporting C64/128s. Their head office is in Denmark and the letter came to me from Holland, but they have a branch office address in Wales: c/o Roy Cross, 76, Castle Drive, NEATH, West Glamorgan SA11 3YE where further info can be found.

Games are their big thing, and they seem to maintain a steady flow of releases. In their letter they do include a warning not to order their programs through Squirm (whoever they are) as these are apparently pirate versions copied in breach of copyright. I will try to obtain fuller details by the next issue.

CHIC NEWS

The Chic Computer Club (see their display advertisement) have recently reorganised the issue dates of the full inserts and simpler newsletters for their special interest groups within the club. This, they hope, will enable the editing chores to become more manageable. I hadn't noticed any delays in the 8T2 group for most 8-bit users. I do wonder why that one does not include PCW users as well but who am I ...

The Chic Club still offers free e-mail facilities, in an easy-access way for 8-bit computer users, too.

ROUTEPLANNER UPDATE

Back in issue 6 of 8BIT (a few back issues still available at £3), I suggested that Routeplanner, Richard Fairhurst's program to calculate the fastest or shortest route by road between any 2 places in England, Scotland or Wales could be worth buying a CPC for, just to be able to use it. I've just received version 1.21, and now it *definitely* is if you often drive journeys over about twenty miles by road. I do, and the program has already covered the cost in saved petrol money, let alone the reduced aggravation by avoiding slow 'stop and start' routes. No road rage for *this* driver, thank you.

My calculation of the petrol cost savings achieved on a return trip in late October between my home and Plymouth was about £15, on the basis of petrol at 58p per litre (£2.64 per gallon). This is virtually the same as the price of the program. Without consulting it, I might have gone the direct route; 256 miles of driving across country, with plenty of speeding up, slowing down, and stops and starts.

This would have taken 13 and a quarter hours at an average of only about 19 mph, whereas Routeplanner sent me just 22 miles further via the A14, South Birmingham and the M5, but I passed through no traffic lights *the whole way* and was able to cruise at a steady 70 (-ish) mph, which, in 5th gear of my Sierra, is in its optimum mode for economy driving. It took just 63 seconds to calculate the route which took 4 hours and 34 minutes to drive at an easy average of 57 mph.

Incidentally, the program was 10 minutes out over the journey time calculation, and that was due to a delay for roadworks on the M5 near Bristol. I drove part of my first choice of the route in mid-November (Swindon to home) and the hold-ups

for roadworks going *that* way on the Plymouth trip would have been worse.

I calculated two test routes, John O'Groats to Land's End and Durness to Dover, and it managed each in under six minutes. If it sounds slow, bear in mind that Routeplanner's suggested route would probably save you at least ten times that each way. The main improvement in the latest version for a user is its increased calculation speed, but this has been extended to include faster redrawing of the map. It really is a serious improvement.

My one small gripe (and it is just me being curmudgeonly) is that 'Chips' Fairhurst has *still* not included my village on the map while the much less significant Chatteris, just up the road, *is* included - pah!

The operation of the program on any CPC or CPC Plus requires 128k of memory and a disc drive. A printer is desirable for producing a print-out of the route to take with you. There are several selectable options of map view, driving style and route information display to enable you to simply configure the program to your needs and preferences. These can be stored for future re-use.

The program costs £14.99 from ComSoft on 0141 554 4735 or Radical Software on 01903 533471 (qv their advertisements elsewhere in 8BIT). Existing owners can return their discs plus £7.99 for an upgrade. If you buy the program new and add about £45 for a secondhand CPC6128, this still gives you a good quality route planning system for under £60, and I hear CPCs *can* be useful in other ways too. I have just found an advert in PC Plus for MicroSoft's Autoroute Express UK for £48.99 on special offer. Could you pick up a second-hand PC for £11?

The PCW version is nearly ready (I saw it loaded and running as far as the opening screen about three months ago) and the other one's on the way for 1997 release. No sign of it yet for other formats though.

8000 & PCW Plus Magazines 1986/1995 Article Index

Recently revised this popular database is now available in:-

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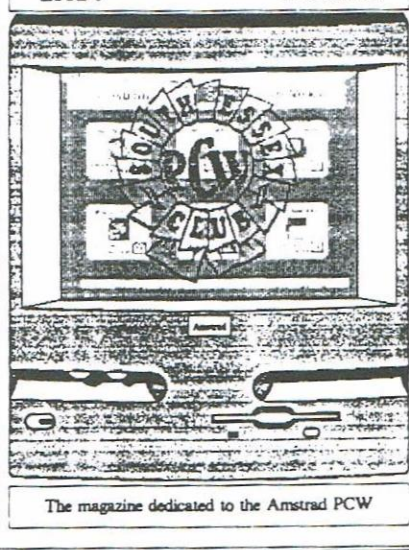
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THE DISC DRIVE

ISSUE 8

AUTUMN 95



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CLUB ENQUIRIES TO: Keith Simons, 10 Orrishmere Road, Cheadle Hulme, Cheadle, Cheshire.

SK8 5HP.

You've just started getting to know Locoscript. What keypresses are essential?

Creating. To create a document, have the disc management screen (the one with the boxes) showing. Then press [C], type in the short name of the document, press [ENTER]. Type in your document, then press [EXIT], then either:
to record the document: select "Finish Editing", press [ENTER] or
to record the document and print on paper, select "Save and Print", press [ENTER] [ENTER], feed in paper, press [EXIT]

Typing in a document. If you don't make any errors or corrections, you can type in your document just as you would with a typewriter. To underline some words, press [+][U][L][ENTER] before typing the first character to be underlined. After the last character to be underlined, press [-][U][L][ENTER].

Correcting Errors. To correct an error, the screen needs to be showing the editing text screen (with the wording of your document showing). Use the four arrow keys, [↑][↓][←][→] to move the cursor (blinking square) to the position of the error:-
If deleting a character, move the cursor so that it is on top of the wrong character, then press [DEL→].

Often you will find that you want to delete one or more characters to the immediate left of the cursor, for example, the characters you just typed. Press the [←DEL] key for each one which you wish to delete.

To insert a character, e.g. the character u into the word, 'hose' to make 'house'. Move over the character after the omission, e.g. hose, and press the correct key.

To insert a whole new sentence, move over the first letter of the sentence after. Then type in your new sentence (remember to press the space bar twice after the full stop).

To insert a new paragraph, move to where it is to be inserted. Press the [RETURN] key twice, then type in your paragraph, then press the [RETURN] key again twice.

You can delete spaces and returns in the same way as characters, by pressing the delete keys.

Often, you will want to move to the end of this or a subsequent line to continue typing. Press the [EOL] key.

Editing a document. To alter a stored document, have the disc management screen showing (with the boxes). Use the four arrow keys to move over the document you wish to alter, then press [E][ENTER]. The document will come onto the screen and you can alter it using any or all of the methods listed above. Finish Editing or Save and Print as you would, had you just created the document.

Inserting text. If you store a name and address in one document, you may well wish to insert it into another. To do this, create a document. Move to where you want the information inserted. Press [f1] (or on a 8256, 8512 or 9256 using Locoscript 1, [f7]). Press the down arrow key to light up the words "insert text" (if the words do not appear on the list, press [CAN] as you pressed the wrong [f] key). Press [ENTER]. You are returned to the Disc Management Screen. Use the arrow keys to move over the document which is being inserted, then press [ENTER] [ENTER].

Experimenting. The best way to learn is (cautiously) to experiment. Keep backup copies! (See your manual for how to make copies.)

MUMPITZ

Informationen für Kleinrechner-Benutzer

Können Sie deutsch?

Then you might benefit from reading **'MUMPITZ'**, which covers most 8bit computers and their emulators on Amiga and PC. MUMPITZ (= nonsense or rubbish) tests new products developed by german tinkers and gives tips for data interchange between the different systems and hints for the conversion of graphic formats. You will also find circuit diagrams for (new) hardware expansions.

MUMPITZ is a monthly mag and gratis (a kind of *paper shareware* - international reply coupons are welcome). For a test copy write to

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In these days of hi-tech, hi spec, high-end computers, it's worth remembering that only ten years ago the good old "ZX" was as common in the home as the PC is today.

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THE PcW16 PAGES by Brian Watson

Now that the new Amstrad PcW16 is actually being sold, 8BIT magazine will be running a regular series, of which this is the first, on its use and the several programs available for it.

Undocumented keypresses

Well, as this is the sort of stuff which new users seem to like to look for, we present some of the combination keypresses which, for one reason or another, did not make it into the manual. Some are more powerful (and therefore potentially injurious to your software) than others, so *be careful*. As with any technology, if you are going to be experimenting with these commands *always back up the cabinet files to disc first* and *work with a different disc in the drive to any which contain information you would not want to lose*. Right, that said, here we go:

General

Re-install operating system POWER button, then CTRL+SHIFT+TASK+RED
Potentially very hazardous to your files; handle with care!

Grab screen shot SHIFT+PRINTSCREEN

Can be tried as a 'last hope' keypress to show what was on the screen just before a crash. Similar in effect to the PRINTSCREEN key applied unshifted

Programmers' Credits Message Enter the HELP Screen and type ANNE(space)TEAM

The words you type will *not* be displayed on the screen. This will also give a very short example of the PcW16's sound capability, which otherwise is a well-kept secret

Word Processor

Turn File-compression on/off TASK+SHIFT+BLUE

This controls the mechanism which normally automatically maximises file storage space on disc or cabinet

File Manager

Un-protect the system folder TASK+x

This will enable the erasure of important files. BE CAREFUL!

Specify file types TASK+#

Initiates the screen window which allows a mask to be imposed through which matching files are displayed; a very handy feature for mass file handling

Read/write MS-DOS disk format TASK+m

Darned useful. This switches off the PcW16's special directory structure feature in favour of the more 'normal' MS-DOS system

Reveal filename extensions TASK+r

Normally these three letter extensions are hidden. This keypress can be useful to see which ones need tagging or special care before moving or deleting them. As an idle interest, several pleasant minutes can be spent grubbing through to see which suffixes are used for which types of file

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We can transfer data between various disk sizes (3", 3½", 5¼" and even 8") and convert to various file formats. We can also provide a Web document authoring and image scanning service.

OTTO

Issue 4 - coming soon to a CPC near you...

For more information about OTTO, or to get the latest issue, enclose an SAE and/or 3" disc and send it to:

**Nicholas Campbell,
24 Ballyminstragh Rd., Killinchy,
Newtownards, Co. Down,
Northern Ireland,
BT23 6RE.**

Remember - OTTO is entirely free! You can get back issues as well - issues 1 and 2 both take up one side each of a 3" disc, and issue 3 takes up a full disc. Issue 4 is expected by January 1997.

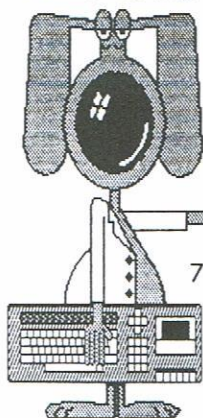
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- 3) MicroDesign Extra - Disc of clip-art for use with MicroDesign Plus. Consists of large headline fonts, musical notation symbols, flowchart symbols etc. ROMDOS D20 format £13.99 or 3" disc £14.99
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- 11) CampurSoft Rombox - Cased 8 socket Rombox expandable to 15 sockets, ideal for DES, ParaDos, Protex etc. £35.00 + £2.00 postage.

Show hidden files TASK+h

As before, this can reveal the files you probably shouldn't be working on. BE CAREFUL!

Format the cabinet TASK+UNDO

Fool with this command at your peril!

Remove Directory names TASK+n

This sounds potentially confusing, as well as potentially dangerous, but I cannot seem to initiate it on mine

Purge Cabinet working area TASK+p

This flushes temporary files and detritus in the cabinet memory. No-one would admit it, but periodically using this reduces the occurrence of lock-ups as well as freeing up cabinet working space for handling large files

It appears from early correspondence that this is not an exhaustive list and I would welcome hearing of any more which are discovered by users.

PcW16 Programs in Preparation - a quick summary of Inventory Master

Inventory Master is just what its name suggests; a program for cataloguing your possessions, room by room, with their values for insurance purposes. As it allows up to 1500 items in up to 60 locations, it is unlikely that you would run out of space for your purposes. It has been programmed by Richard Wildey, and has very much the 'look and feel' of the PcW16 system programs. There is a comprehensive 28 page manual with the program disk which includes example screen-shots. Without a doubt this 'pictorial plus text' approach is much better than just providing a rather dry 'text only' presentation.

While working well 'straight from the box', the programme can easily be configured to match the room distribution of *your* house. As well as the principal insurance valuation purpose, **Inventory Master** can also be configured to produce a catalogue of almost anything around the home. For example, a book collection could be catalogued shelf by shelf, and a CD or tape collection may be catalogued by style or artist type. **8BIT** will be running a tutorial on **Inventory Master** to complement the manual.

Inventory Master is available shortly through **ComSoft**, 10, McIntosh Court, Wellpark, GLASGOW G31 2HW. Credit card orders may be placed on 0141 554 4735. Oh, and just an afterthought; against the possibility of domestic disaster, the manual strongly suggests you keep a recent backup of your information disc in a safe place *outside the home*. That's pretty good advice to every computer user; we always assume major tragedies will only happen to someone else, whereas I've had a couple already and I reckon another one's about due. And *do* make sure your PcW16 is included in your insurance policy, won't you?

8BIT PcW16 Services

In the interests of providing on-going practical and low-cost PcW16 support, **8BIT** is compiling a disc of PcW16 tips and templates to be used with the word processor and spreadsheet modules supplied with the computer. One file already growing daily is an 'additional words' disc for the spell checker, which contains some real howlers in place of some quite ordinary words. It is also hoped to include demonstration versions of some of the forthcoming software, ideally slightly in advance of release. The disk will be available early in February 1997 and initially cost only £1, to just cover the price of the disc, postage and appropriately sturdy packaging. All contributions of templates from PcW16 users, 'third-party' software and its authors will be welcomed and acknowledged on the disk.

IEBA

The Independent Eight Bit Association

The Independent Eight Bit Association, formerly solely a SAM and Spectrum group, now works to support and promote the use of *all* 8-bit computers, including the Amstrad CPCs, PCWs, and NC100/200 notepads, BBCs, Commodore C64/128s, Einsteins, Orics, SAMs, Sharps, Spectrums etc ... if it has an eight-bit processor, it is supported by the IEBA.

- * The group have already produced a comprehensive **Directory of 8-bit Services**, a copy of which is free to members upon joining.
- * When the IEBA has something to discuss among the membership, it publishes and distributes a free newsletter.
- * The group's officers use a wide range of computer types themselves.
- * The IEBA is seeking to set up a portable display module for use in libraries exhibitions.

Membership of the IEBA costs just £5. There is no annual subscription, and no renewal fee. For further details and a membership application form, write to the Membership Secretary, Brian Watson, at Harrowden, 39, High Street, Sutton, ELY, Cambs CB6 2RA.



Bonzo's Scrapyard

The occasional newsletter for Amstrad CPC
tape to disc transfers

29 Chapter Road, Strood, Rochester,
Kent, ME2 3PX

Bonzo's Scrapyard, the tape to disc transfer information newsletter, using the Bonzo suite of programs, published quarterly, is available now from the above address. To receive a copy, send an A5 or A4 sized SSAE, plus an additional first class stamp.

The Bonzo programs are now on sale again

The following Bonzo related programs, which between them transfer over 1400 programs from tape to disc, are available exclusively from Bonzo's Scrapyard:

- 1 Bonzo Super Meddler and Hackpack
- 2 Bonzo Blitz (for Speedlock programs) and 4 adventure games written by Colin Harris
- 3 Bonzo's Flashpack (Flash Basic Utilities and Demos)
- 4 Bonzo's Big Batch (Database, Pools Predictor, Sprite/Screen Designer)
- 5 Maxidos and CPC Procopy

All the above are on 3 inch disc and cost £8.50 per disc, including P&P.

Also available is the MS800 big format program, this is supplied on 3.5 inch disc and costs £6.50, including P&P.

All the above programs available from the end of September 1995, please make cheques etc. payable to Mr D. A. Caleno.

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RoutePlanner v1.21 is now just £14.95.

This CPC 6128 navigation program finds the best route between any two towns - quickly, easily and effectively.

This significant upgrade to *RoutePlanner* includes a massive 3000 place database and this new version has faster calculation speed and new 1997 data. An on-screen map, which can be viewed at up to 16 times zoom level, displays roads and towns.

The unveiling of *RoutePlanner* v1.21 marks the relaunch of Radical Software and more releases are planned for the future.

Games still available are *Star Driver* and *Masters Of Space* at £9.95 each and *Who Said That?* at £13.95. Send A5 SAE for list.

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The Way You Work

Floppy disks wear out eventually. Use plenty - they are cheap in comparison with your time. Use the "grandfather, father and son" cycle when you make a significant change to a file and backup anyway every week or so, even on disks to which you only make small changes. This procedure is described below.

Always use the "write protect" tabs on a disk if you are not changing it. This is especially important when copying. When the hole is open, the disk is protected. Take care to swap the disks properly when copying in several parts. Do not hold the [ENTER] button down too long when replying to prompts - the machine may remember this and proceed later without pausing.

Remember that a backup disk has one function only - that is to make copies from. Never work on a backup disk - once you use a backup disk it is no longer a backup! Keep your backup and working disks in different places. Whenever you make a copy of a disk, use the copy. - don't keep using the same disk. This immediately confirms that the copy is valid. Don't erase files or reformat old disks unless you have first checked that the new copies of these are OK. Keep some blank pre-formatted disks handy.

Some modern PC programs quickly fill up the floppy disk with temporary files and then "crash". Work only on your hard drive if possible and then copy the files off onto floppy disks for backup or transit purposes. Try to keep your files small. When you edit a document you are actually creating a new version. so make sure there is sufficient free space on the disk or on the RAM drive. On a PCW/PcW machine, use different disks to store LocoScript documents and other CP/M files - LocoScript and CP/M interpret the user groups quite differently and you may lose data. Do not store your data files on your "start of day" disk if this can be avoided. On a PC disk, never store files in the root directory - always use subdirectories. Don't store your program files and the data on the same disk. Avoid mixing data from different applications on the same floppy disk.

Get the latest version of your software. Programs are like a tramp's bed - there are always a few bugs lurking! Read the screen messages carefully. Take time to study the manual. If something does go wrong and you get a disk problem or if you erase a file accidentally, stop using the disk immediately. Write down any error messages precisely. Abandon any edit and do not ignore errors and continue. Working further on such a disk may reduce the chance of a successful salvage. Before doing anything else, first write-protect the disk, and then try to make a copy of it. If you can't copy the disk and don't have the expertise to tackle the salvage, don't dabble!



The Generation Game

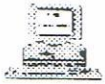
The ultimate backup, of course, is a hard paper copy (or two), since some hardware problems can destroy data on all your disks, whatever you do. However, keeping several copies of each of your disks is prudent and more efficient. The "grandfather, father and son" cycle of backing up disks is a good way to ensure that you always have a recent copy of your data in case anything goes wrong with the disk on which you are working. This means keeping three sets of disks, and at any time using only one disk of each set (the "son") while keeping the others as backups. When you make changes to your working disc (the son) use the "grandfather disk" of that set to make the backup on, copying from the son onto that disk. This disk then becomes the new "son" as the next working disk. The old "son" becomes the new "father" and the old "father" becomes the new "grandfather". So, with each backup every member of the family moves to the earlier generation. Keeping just one backup doesn't cover you against problems that may arise when making the next backup.



Dave's Tips On Floppy Disk Care



Most floppy disk problems are caused by mains voltage fluctuations (usually dips), poor quality disks, or operator error. They can almost always be avoided by a proper backing up strategy. The following tips, compiled from experience in salvaging thousands of floppy disks, may help to prevent future disasters.



The Hardware

If you suspect a hardware problem, get your machine checked immediately. Do not use it in the meantime and never test it with an important floppy disk - use a new one.

Don't switch the machine on or off with disks in the drives. Get a mains spike protector and avoid using a ring main supplying devices that switch on & off or carry heavy loads. Even so, these gadgets won't prevent the dips - only an uninterruptible power supply (UPS) can do this. Try to avoid working late at night or during storms. Use good quality branded floppy disks. These usually have a batch number or country of origin on them.

Don't leave the disks in the drives for long periods. Recycle old disks frequently by reformatting them. Don't touch the surface of the disks. Keep them in jackets or boxes away from dust. Don't take the disk out of the drive while the disk drive light shows that it is being accessed.

Keep disks well away from magnetic fields from domestic or office equipment, magnets in telephones, hi-fi speakers or children's toys. Avoid extremes of humidity and temperature or dusty environments. If transient errors keep occurring, clean the drive occasionally with a non-abrasive head cleaner. If static electricity is a problem, earth yourself before working or get an antistatic mat.

Use the correct format of disk for the type of drive that you are using. A common problem with modern 3½" disks is "cross-formatting". You can use 720k (DD) disks in a 1.44Mbyte drive if they are formatted only to 720k. Formatting a high density (HD) disk in a low density (720k) drive is also risky. Data on such "cross-formatted" disks degrades quickly. 1.44Mbyte (HD) disks have an extra hole in the corner opposite the "write-protect" hole; 720k disks do not. NEVER use high density (HD) disks in a PCW/PcW 3½" drive - use only DD disks.

The same problem occurs with the older 5¼" disks. You should also avoid cross-formatting 360k and 1.2Mbyte disks. 360k disks have a hub ring; 1.2 Mbyte disks do not. These disks are also more vulnerable than modern 3½" disks. Avoid bending them and if you are sending them by post always put a stiffener in the parcel. Only write on the labels with a felt tip pen once they are stuck on these disks. Put the disks back in their protective jacket once they come out of the drive. Do not lay them unprotected on the desk - this can scratch the disk surface.

The Amstrad PCW 3" 'floppy' disks are unusual. The PCW 8256/8512 180k A: drive is single-headed, so they can be used on both sides. However, the 720k B: drive of that machine and the A: drive of the PCW9512, are double headed so you can only use one side. Don't try to mix 180k and 720k formats or use the reverse side of a 720k 3" disk. On the Amstrad 8512 you can't write to a 180k disk in the 720k B: drive or to a 720k disk in the A: drive. Don't try to copy a 720k B: disk onto a 180k disk in A: - it won't work!

After working with a 3" disk, lay it flat while it cools - the adhesive used in some of the cheaper disks melts and the hub may become off-centred. When you format a new disk for the PCW/PcW machines, reformat an old one, or copy a disk, use DISCKIT (or LocoScript 2 or 3) to verify it afterwards. This checks that the disk is OK and may avoid problems later.

RUMOUR OF THE YEAR Part 1

We start this 'shorts' section with an intriguing rumour. On the Friday before Christmas I was, unusually, at home during the day trying to get the mail cleared and ensure all my business customers had been called and well stuffed with goods, before driving into Cambridge to talk about pantomimes on the BBC.

I took a phone call from an 8BIT subscriber who, for now, must remain nameless for reasons which will soon become apparent. He commenced by offering me seasonal greetings, which I reciprocated, and went on to ask whether I knew that 8BIT was under investigation by the Office of Fair Trading (of all people).

At first I must admit I fell for it. Why it would be I could not imagine, as I would have thought that the way I generally respond to my readers' subscriptions and correspondence is *reasonably* professional, bearing in mind that 8BIT is still a hobby rather than a living for me and I do have many other demands on my time.

As almost the only cross-format magazine for 8-bit users, I would not have thought 8BIT unfairly competed with anyone, which is the OFT's usual area of interest.

I was already aware of a couple of other computer 'activists' taking to themselves the role of self-appointed 'Ombudsman to the 8-bit world' from time to time and have publicised them in 8BIT, with the same scepticism I have for all self-appointed busybodies. But I could not think what I might have done to actually offend anyone sufficiently to feel there were grounds for registering any sort of official complaint.

Then it all became clear. My informant named the person who had allegedly set the OFT 'dogs' on me and surprise, surprise, it was his arch rival in the world of Spectrum

public domain and other software!

Now you may or may not be aware that a continuing entertainment for several years among Spectrum users has been the on-going war between two of its principal supporters. These two love each other like Cain and Abel; writs have flown and exposés have followed as to who really did (or said) what to whom. Then peace breaks out for a few weeks before it all starts up again. It's far more entertaining than Brookside though rather less like real life. Riveting though it may be to some, by and large I have kept the comings and goings of this rather silly jousting out of 8BIT as I feel that the magazine has better things to do.

Anyway, at this point in our conversation I realised I was late for my appointment at the BBC (darlings) and politely told my informant what a waste of time I regarded the conversation as being, wished him a Happy Christmas again, and hung up.

Since then, I have been unable to check with the other party what (if any) truth there is in the rumour. The OFT are obviously having an extended break over the festive season as no-one has yet arrived at my door with the briefcase full of accusations and statements, but I have kept a mince pie and tot of Southern Comfort on the table in the hall, just in case.

If I am still at liberty in three months I will keep you informed on developments (if any). Until then, Messrs Sue, Grabbitt and Runne stand ready to fight the good fight for 8BIT at the expense of, not me, but rather the cover of my extensive legal protection insurance.

Until I am taken away in chains by the Men in Black, I have no hesitation in recommending the services of both Alchemist Software and Prism PD, which are run with the best interests of their customers in the forefront of their thoughts, despite the founder of one being

apparently obsessed beyond reason with the doings of the founder of the other. What a waste of talent.

Just a quick thought before I let it drop; does anyone know a good strip cartoonist who works cheap? This could develop into a whole new feature in 8BIT.

OBITUARIES:

1) PCW Plus

Future Publishing's PCW Plus, the last magazine for 8-bit computers, has left the newsstands with a grand Christmas special including several nicely swipes by editor Andrew Chapman against his former employer.

There was very little notice given that the magazine was closing despite Future's attempt to hang in there through 1996 until the PCW16's users raised the readership figures back up to a more reasonable level. As 8BIT readers will be aware, the PCW16 only really started selling in volume through Dixons and others in November, which was rather too little, and much too late.

Actually, that was only half the story. Since the vast majority of software for the '16 is coming out through a collaboration of Comsoft and Creative Technology, the number of advertising companies which a new computer's release usually provides was always likely to be rather restricted in this case: no prizes for guessing which of the partners will have the overwhelmingly larger advertising budget to play with.

Incidentally, a leaflet notifying purchasers that 8BIT will provide on-going coverage will be included with each PCW16 sold.

As the usual ratio for the glossy magazines is 'one page of editorial per page of paid advertising in an issue', the readers could probably not have expected an increased page count even if the readership did go up significantly.

Thanks to a mention in the last

WINTER SHORTS -contd

issue (and others) of **PCW Plus**, **8BIT** has received over 150 enquiries so far, most of which have led to subscriptions. Our ratio of content does not rely on its advertisers so the future is looking bright here.

This does not mean **8BIT** has sold its soul to the PCW community; it *does* mean that in the increased editorial content there will be more for PCW users. The reduction in the number of small adverts pages allows more editorial pages for *all* 8-bits. The space on each will still depend on what is interesting and to hand.

2) Old Format disks

Oh dear, there appears to be a disk shortage again, but this time it's not 3" discs. This time it is the 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " and 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " Double Density ones which are getting hard to find.

Joyce Cook of **Softsell** wrote, saying she finds it hard to get 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " disks on which to supply software to those Spectrum users who use that size drive and this must affect Commodore users too. If you know a supply please let Joyce know through the address printed in the **Softsell** advert elsewhere in this issue.

Having read dire warnings about the alleged perils of using High Density 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " disks, I tried without success to buy a pack of 10 Double Density ones in the various computer and stationery shops in Cambridge. I have generally used High Density ones so far and had no mishaps so I shall carry on with them, but at least I will have the decency to feel anxious about it.

A REAL QUANTUM LEAP IN PROGRAMMING

I have been asked whether I know where to find mathematical software, *ideally* on a 3" disc, for a PCW. Apart from Advantage, who my correspondent already knows, I must say I don't. But it occurs to me that *another* 8-bit computer might be able to offer a solution. Isn't the Sinclair QL supposed to be good at

this sort of thing? And I note that in the December issue of Format magazine (qv SAM article this issue for address details) that John Wase is very familiar with mathematical programming on the Spectrum.

The request is for software which is up to modelling calculus, among other things, and the ultimate hope is to find PCW (or another 8-bit computer's?) software capable of solving Shroedinger's equation, which (as any fule kno) is a keystone of quantum mechanics. Any maths programs would be welcomed.

The person to write to with any information is Peter Cropley at 37, Penn Hill Avenue, Parkstone, POOLE, Dorset BH14 1BG, or you could try phoning 01202 731962 (during the evenings, preferably).

PS. Late entry. See also the note on Small Systems Support from Elliam elsewhere in this issue's SHORTS.

SAM COMMS

Also in the December Format I see a second-hand MGT comms interface for a SAM advertised. Does anyone use a SAM for comms who could supply an article for **8BIT** on how it's done? Usual fee offered.

SHOW REPORTS

Since the last issue, your editor has attended largely single-format computer shows in Walsall, Plymouth, and Wetherby. Great fun was had at each, and if you have never risked meeting your fellow hobbyist I can heartily recommend it.

You will find them only a little barmier and obsessed with computers than you and completely invaluable for answering those problems which you think that only you struggle with on a daily basis.

The quality of the coffee and tea is usually a little suspect, but so far I have found the standard of the other refreshments very good and reasonably priced. This means that the hold-all bag, *as well* as the

anorak pockets(!), can be filled with your old software and the hardware devices which you have never used and wish to sell there.

'Hot off the press' details of the next NSSS (see the SAM feature) can be obtained from one of the organisers, Allan Clarkson at 123, Potternewton Lane, Chapel Allerton, LEEDS LS7 3LW.

PC SOFTWARE

No, not IBM stuff; this is for the neighbourhood Police Constable with a Spectrum. While I was at the Northern SAM/Spectrum Show I found David Wornham's 'Flexibase' range.

As well as the first really good and interesting roadcraft test I have seen and used, there are also programs in the range which let you play the cop and clamp down hard on your community's litterers, vandals, and other minor offenders. It even lets you come to grips (no doubt in a sensitive way) with drugs being found at a party. So if this gets up your nose too, you can vent your wrath, within the bounds of the law, on David's perpetrator sprites.

Flexibase Software can be found at 20, The Parklands, DROITWICH SPA, Worcs WR9 7DG.

CQ QL

I have been trying, without any success, to contact any user group for the Sinclair QL. The addresses I had on file from the early days of **8BIT** do not respond. Is it something I said, or is there no QL support, such as Quanta, available now?

WORST SOFTWARE COMPO (LAST ENTRY)

That Mark Sturdy (again) wishes to nominate Street Fighter 2 on the Spectrum as the worst piece of software ever, as per our recent competition. I must agree that 10 minutes to load the title screen, then finding that it won't recognise the most widely-used joystick used on the Spectrum, seems to suggest a promising start.

WINTER SHORTS -contd

An extra 10-40 minutes while it searches for the data on your chosen characters without any on-screen messages to confirm all is still well continues the theme, and then finding the controls are set up to be so illogical and user unfriendly that you 'die' almost immediately and have to restart from the very beginning finishes off an entry which might have won the competition had it still been open.

And all you rich people smugly thinking that he should have bought the disk version can stop smirking; there *was* no disk version.

SMALL SYSTEM SUPPORT

John Butler has sent a wad of addresses for organisations still offering support for small systems, including many in the USA. These will be passed to the IEBA for contacting to see whether they are still active. Once there is confirmation 8BIT will print a summary list.

John has also supplied a large catalogue of CP/M software from Elliam Associates, PO Box 2664, Atascadero, CA 93423. This is not half-baked PD stuff; rather it is fully featured software including accounts, art, comms, languages, word processors, emulators, spell checkers, filing systems, maths etc.

A QUESTION OF STYLE

I have just noticed a point in the April '96 newsletter of the Lawyers' PCW Club. A writer says in passing that there should be a space left after each comma, and two spaces left after each full stop.

As someone who had a classical education at a fairly up-market grammar school but recognises that part of English's rich character is that it is in a constant state of change and evolution, I take a fairly relaxed view on punctuation as long as there is consistency within a document and the intended

message is conveyed.

Is there now a national style, or does this just refer to legal protocol, I wonder?

E-MAIL

I am a great fan of the potential of e-mail. For over a year I have offered an e-mail address as one way to contact 8BIT. But only now do I know why e-mail is so called.

Since foregoing the services of my son Rob's super-duper 486 PC when he went to college this autumn, I have been trying in vain to get a 286 PC, which he bought on my behalf, to work as a home e-mail terminal (and not much else).

I have tried CompuServe's own MS/Dos software, which seemed to need the phone line disconnected most of the time or it broke the link itself, and Rob is even now wrestling to achieve a Windows installation on the ****ed thing.

He says Windows doesn't like my keyboard. Well, I'll go further; I don't like the base unit or the monitor either. Back to the 8-bit..

Oh, and the reason e-mail is so called? Because according to my own recent experiences, efforts to use it result in the frequent emitting of a high pitched scream by the user. Eeeeeee!

IEBA NEWS

Just a reminder: the 2nd edition of the IEBA's own **Directory of 8-bit Services**, corrected and enlarged by the editor John Walker is still available. It costs £4 to existing members, and is free to new members.

The group *still* have a vacancy for an Exhibitions co-ordinator.

PCW CLUBS NEWS

In the wake of PCW Plus's recent closure, the various local Clubs and magazines are frenetically seeking to fill the void. Even some groups

which up to now had not responded to 8BIT's several requests for contact are sending out their prospectuses. I will include further information on the 'new boys' in the next issue once I have followed up.

Many of the 'old favourites' are benefiting too:

South Essex PCW club are now reporting other PCW Clubs' news in their Disc Drive magazine; a very sensible initiative which may help to establish The Disc Drive as *the* national PCW magazine.

I have received a pack of news from Leslie Simpson of the North Wales Computer Club's PCW section.

It's a very good read and I wish them luck in beefing up the PCW end of things there, especially through the newsletter. To get in touch with him write to *Ty Ceiriog*, 9, Bryn Rhosyn, ABERGELE, Conwy LL22 8EZ.

Crawley PCW Club have that nice Brian Watson visiting on 6th March. He will be wittering on about the joys of **Protext**. For details (if it's not already a sell out) contact John Fisher, *Pradines*, Four Elms Road, EDENBRIDGE, Surrey TN8 6AF or phone him at 01732 863062.

PD Blake is offering a low-cost PCW clip art service. His address is 32, Sample Avenue, BEVERLEY, E Yorks HU17 9DW. More details will be included in 8BIT's next issue.

SPECTRUM USERS, THIS IS FOR YOU

Steve's Software, who feature in the SAM piece, has sent a list of recent products and a copy of their Plus D Hacker-Toolkit-File suite. I have not had time to review it in depth this time but further details may be obtained from the company.

Another Spectrum-specific only (I assume) item to arrive without time now to review it is the X.2 3-disk package from Alec Carswell. There's a Kapsa club disk, another with games and utilities, and one with more games. All from 16, Montgomery Avenue, Beith, Ayrshire KA15 1EL.

COMMODORE - FOR SALE

Lemmings and Quick Data drive for C64. Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 891014 REF:1

Commodore 64-128 games and books. Also other software-hardware. A4 SAE to: Miss C Hurlock, 8c, Hamlet Court Rd, Westcliff on Sea, Essex SS0 7LX REF:1

Commodore 64 with manual + many extras, £20 + p&p. Contact Brian Watson c/o 8BIT. REF:3

C64 Software; 800 titles SAE for price list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:1

C64/128 productivity software, games, books and hardware. Many sought after items available (1581 disk drive, CBM Modem, 2 Meg RamDrive, Newsroom, PrintShop Companion, Easyscript, GeoChart, Geos Inside and Out and scores more). Send for lists (stamp appreciated). Michael D Pearson, 31, Saxon Close, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire CV37 7DX REF:1

COMMODORE - WANTED

WANTED! Commodore Format issues 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, 33, 35, 37, 40, 41, and 47 - all in vgc with tapes please. Also wanted: any old Zzap 64s, Commodore Forces, Your Commodores, or Commodore Users. All vgc with tapes. Any reasonable offers considered. Call 01427 (Gainsborough) 610912. REF:1

Calling all C64 users! If you have a 5 $\frac{1}{4}$ " disk drive and want to swap PD (that's PD *only*), demos, disk mags, games and utilities then get in touch now. Write, enclosing PD list, to Simon Hillam, 61, Tower Street, GAINSBOROUGH, Lincs DN21 2JF. Go on - I don't bite, you know. REF:1

WANTED: Trojan light pen, disk, and tape software for the Commodore 64. Also many items for sale and technical help given for free - just send an SAE or an international

reply coupon. Write to Andrew Fisher, 30, Rawlyn Road, CAMBRIDGE Cambs CB5 8NL REF:1

Space Crusade published by Gremlin Graphics. Tape or Disk. Contact Mark Surridge, COLCHESTER (01206) 792155 REF:1

WANTED: Printshop 64, new or second hand - must be complete. Manual for MPS801 and help with Speedscript. Contact M Surridge, 99, Canterbury Road, COLCHESTER, Essex CO2 7RY. Tel: 01206 (Colchester) 792155 REF:1

COMMODORE 64/128 - MISC

If you own a C64/128, you need **COMMODORE SCENE**; bi-monthly and packed with all the news and views from the Commodore world. Send an A5 SAE to **COMMODORE SCENE**, c/o Richard Bowen, 35, Nottingham Road, Nuthall, NOTTINGHAM NG16 1DN. Mention 8BIT for a free disk of software with your first order. REF:C

AMSTRAD CPC - FOR SALE

Tape/disc games and GX4000 kit. Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 891014 REF:2

An unusual (in Britain) CPC464 with the Spanish keyboard layout, £10 + p&p or possible free delivery available. Phone Brian Watson 01353 (ELY) 777006 REF:1

The following tape games: Batman, Rollaround, Superstar Challenge, NightBreed, all 50p each + p&p. Also Mini Office on tape. Please contact Mark Johnson, 13, Ashway, Corringham, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex SS17 9EB or telephone 01375 677631 for more details. REF:1

A CPC6128 computer with colour monitor, extra external 3" drive, tape recorder, joystick, some games and some serious discs, Mini-Office 2. Offers. Tel: 01642 617656 REF:1

Large list of 2nd hand CPC tape and disc software and hardware at sensible prices. Originals c/w

instructions. Send 1st class stamp and return label for lists. Brian Watson, c/o 8BIT magazine. REF:C

AMSTRAD CPC - WANTED

Wanted Amstrad Action issues 1 to 28, 33, 36, 37, 45 and 52 with covertapes. Will pay up to £1.50 each. Also wanted **Bonzo Scrapyrd** newsletters; will pay 50p each. Philip Barrass, 12, Westburn Terrace, Roker, Sunderland SR6 9RB REF:1

Wanted AMX mouse for use with 6128. Reasonable amount paid. Telephone: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 7-10pm REF:1

ACU for Nov '84 to Feb '85, Jun '86 to Oct '86, Sep '87 to Dec '87, April '90, Sep '90. Also Amstrad Action 1 and 2 and Amtix 1, 3 to 5, and 10-14. Also Pre-40 issues of **WACCI**, **CPC User** 1, any issues of **CPC Power**, **CPC Now** from 4 onwards, **Rundschlag** 1-8. Peter Curgenvin, *The Hollyar*, Bay Road, Trevone Bay, Near Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8QZ. Tel: 01841 520875 REF:1

Wanted for Amstrad CPC 6128: these adventures on disc; Hitch Hikers Guide to the Galaxy (Infocom), Ingrid's Back (Level 9), Also wanted, these games on disc; Meltdown (Alligator), Knight Games (English Software), Amstrad Action magazines issues 1-7 inclusive. The cover prices offered. Jo Wood, 38, Stonehill Drive, Rooley Moor, ROCHDALE, Lancs OL12 7JN. Telephone: 01706 861185 REF:1

WACCI wanted 4-15, 19, 22, 23, 25, 31, 35, 51 Christine Raisin, Tel: 0115 (NOTTINGHAM) 9133181 REF:1

Rombo rombox wanted for original Amstrad CPC 6128. State price wanted. Apply: Mr RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds. MK41 6ED REF:1

Disc Base + a manual for CPC. £6 (incl p&p.) RE Hobday, 43, Cody Road, Clapham, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 6ED REF:1

continued....

CPC - MISCELLANEOUS

KING ARTHUR'S DOMAIN is a disc PD Library for the CPC. We have games, utilities, music, clip art, a large selection of CP/M programs and lots more. For catalogue, send 3"/3 1/2" disc + SAE to: **KAD, Brympton Cottage, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.** REF:C

GD.PD: The ultimate in PD software at only 25p per disc side (copy charge) for your Amstrad CPC. For the GD.PD list send an SAE to: Dave Stitson, 6, Connaught Avenue, Mutley, PLYMOUTH, Devon PL4 7BX REF:C

AMSTRAD PCW - FOR SALE

LocoScript 2.29 with LocoSpell and LocoMail as supplied for 9512 3" disc and CP/M Plus as supplied for 9512 3" disc. Never been used - both for £15 Phone 01273 (Peacehaven) 583050 after 6pm REF:3

Sigma Press "Picture Processing on the PCW" book and disc with Drawmon program and manual. Masters on 3" discs but 3 1/2" added on request, £20. Used 3" discs, 6 for £6. Plastic cases for 3" discs, 9 for £2.50. Alan Kimber on 0181 866 (London) 1272. Ref:1

Amstrad PCW8256/8512 parts for DIY repair: 3" drives, CPU boards, Power boards, Tubes, Keyboards, printers, etc. Also some books and software. Advice freely given. SAE please for lists and info. Ron King, 19, Stancliffe Road, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 9AN REF:1

Unused 3" LocoScript and CP/M software for Amstrad 8000 or PCW9512 £10. Amstrad PC-CM to fit PC1512 £25. PCW10 user manual, new £6. PC1512 and PC1640 5 1/4" software £5. Various Amstrad keyboards £6. Mr Dodds 01388 (BISHOP AUKLAND) 606744 REF:1

PCW/CPC Hardware, 3" discs, back issue magazines, programming books, games, stationery, software and much, much, more. Please send large stamped, addressed envelope for full

list to: Mr JW Gamble, 31, Cornmills Road, Soham, ELY, Cambs CB7 5AT REF:1

MD Viewpoint (PCW-PC conversion disc) £25, Moonstone 3" PCW-PC-PCW disc £15, PCW+ 64-116 c/w binders £25. SD Mini-Publisher £12.50, Fancy Borders £7.50, Super Labeller £12.50, Picture Disc (Fun Christmas) £2.50. All 3 1/2" discs c/w manuals. Mr W Downie, 8, Smithy Road, STRANRAER, DG9 8LP. Tel: 01776 704363. REF:1

QUICKMYTH: a Locofile database on 3 1/2" disc in 4 versions: (1) Greek mythology (126k) £5, (2) Greek and Norse Myth (168k) £7.50, (2.1) Greek, Norse and Celtic Notes (212k) £10, and (3) Egyptology (180k) £9.50. Cheques to: DJ Gaskin, 119, London Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4NP REF:1

A 3" disc drive, A or B optional, 180k. Ten clean unlabelled 3" discs. £35 the lot. LocoScript v3.06 .FIB files available, free to an updating user. Tel 01622 (MAIDSTONE, Kent) 688201. REF:1

12 brain twisting games from SPARK Software for the PCW including Coconut Shy and Fishing. Send cheque for £5 to Mr C McKenzie, 20, Macclesfield Road, Congleton, Cheshire, CW12 1NR. Specify 3" or 3 1/2" disc REF:1

Masters with manuals: LS/LM temp disc £5, Matrix Locofont £6, Flipper v3.10 £15. Sybil Fox 67, Alder Lodge, Stevenage Road, LONDON SW6 6NR. 0171 381 1445. REF:1

AMX Stop Press, Caxton Condor 1, Caxton Scratchpad+Smartkey; £15 ea. Tas-Sign, Lord of the Rings game 1; £10 ea. Synergy Sharemaster, MAP Initnon ledger system; £20 ea. SCA Professional + interface £45. Cut cable 9pin female to 25pin female; free. AEG Olympia FCC 1D2 interface 36pin to 20pin ribbon; £30. JR Cross, *The Parciau*, Clyro, Hay-on-Wye, HEREFORD HR3 5SG REF:1

AMSTRAD PCW - WANTED

WANTED: 8000+ and PCW Plus issues

1 to 62 inclusive. Telephone 01733 (PETERBOROUGH) 261234 REF:3

WANTED for PCW 9512+, a hard drive and any 3 1/2" 720k software. All reasonable offers considered. Also issue 2 of 8000 Plus. Tel: Gary on 01582 (LUTON, Beds) 483894 eves and weekends. Thanks. REF:3

A CP/M utility for marking or patching bad sectors? Does one exist? I'd like to buy an inkjet printer for £100, or under, secondhand. Are there any out there? Rob Bucknor, Flat B, 27, Blyth Road, LONDON SE28 8LJ. REF:1

Tecniche PCW102 keyboard in good working condition. N Bannister, Tel: 01732 374732 (GRAYS, Essex). REF:2

Can you help? Wanted: a set of PCW 8512 master CP/M discs. Also a decent general purpose PCW database program. Mark Weir, 24 Eastmount, Newtonards, Co.Down, N Ireland BT23 8SE. REF:2

Cyrus II Chess with instruction leaflet for use with PCW9256 using 3 1/2" drive (or CPC 6128 version) Keith J Bull, *Le Coié*, 60, Hildaville Drive, WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA, Essex SS0 9RU. Tel: 01702 339894. Thank you. REF:1

For PCW8512: A 720k drive B in working order, also DR's Assembler and Disassembler, 3" discs of both types for a PCW, any PCW books such as **The Amstrad CP/M Plus** by David Powys-Lybbe and Andrew RM Clarke (published by MML), **CP/M Software Bus** by A Clarke, JM Eaton & D Powys-Lybbe (publ by Sigma Technical Press). Write to: J-C Maurin, 3, Square Gabriel Fauré, 75017 PARIS, France. REF:1

User Instruction manual for an Amstrad PCW 9512 with daisywheel printer. Eileen. 01621 (Maldon, Essex) 788273 REF:1

AMS30L Disc boxes, SCA Pro interface, LocoFile 3 for a PCW9512. Phone Vic on 01268 (CANVEY ISLAND, Essex) 514142 REF:1

continued....

AMSTRAD PCW - WANTED -contd

Any help or information on PCW 9256; Programs, games, Locoscript 3, upgrade memory with chips, 3 1/2" disks. Mr WA Warren, 25, Milton Avenue, ANDOVER, Hants SP10 3DP REF:1

AMSTRAD PCW - MISCELLANEOUS

Crawley PCW Club meets first Thursday of each month except August. A Club helpline is available for members. For further details write to the Chairman/Secretary John Fisher at *Pradines*, Four Elms Road, EDENBRIDGE, TN8 6AF. REF:C

PCW PUBLIC DOMAIN AND CLIPART COPYING SERVICE. Games, Comms, Fonts, Shades, etc. £1.50 per disc. For full details and catalogue with examples of the above please send formatted 3.5" disc, SAE and 50p coin to: PD Blake, 32, Sample Avenue, Beverley, East Yorks HU17 9DW. Coming soon: MD scanning service and Majcha II. REF:3

Berkshire Amstrad PCW Users Club offers you FREE telephone support, FREE magazine/book loan, FREE machine loan, FREE newsletter. FREE access to bulletin boards etc. FREE Special offers; eg 3" discs only £10 per 10. SAE for details to Ed Harris, 121, Bullbrook Drive, BRACKNELL, Berks RG12 2QR. REF:C

Globe-trotting, or just interested? Contact **CAPITAL COMPUTER CLUB**, c/o Ray C Petersen (the Secretary), 21, Mapplebeck Street, Titahi Bay, Porirua, New Zealand. The Club now has members with Amstrads (all sorts), Amigas, Macs, Sanyos and PCs with DOS and CP/M. They are well up to date with PCW news. New members are welcome at each monthly meeting. REF:C

TRACK is the name of the very useful free advertising feature section of **SCOTWEST.pcw**, the magazine of the PCW Club of the same name. For more details contact David Williams, 32/34, Carfin Street, New Stevenston, MOTHERWELL ML1 4JL Scotland. 01698 732403. REF:C

The **Corwall PCW Club** meets on the second Saturday of each month (July and August excepted) in St Austell. All those interested in PCWs are most welcome to join us. Details from John Walker on 01752 (Plymouth) 706266. REF:C

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - FOR SALE

Over 50 tapes for sale (some with manuals), incl *The Hobbit*, 6 Flight Simulations, Zeus Assembler, Masterfile, Chipchek, Autokopy, Pinball Wizard, £10 the lot inc UK postage. Trevor, tel 01904 (York) 704595 - answerphone. REF:3

Light gun, games, etc etc Duncan Tizzard, *Folly Farm*, Cold Ashton, CHIPPENHAM, Wilts SN14 8JR. 01225 891014 REF:2

Spectrum software for sale. SAE to Nick Cheesman, 70, Wellesley Close, Avondale, Ashvale, ALDERSHOT, Hants GU12 5SP REF:1

Cheap Spectrum software and hardware for sale. Send an SAE for a 7-page list. Prices start at just 10p. Write to Chris (quoting **8BIT**), *Glenhirst*, Station Road, Swineshead, Near BOSTON, Lincs PE20 3NX REF:1

Spectrum games for sale from 50p each. Send SAE for list to: Pauline Fuller, 4, *Whitehouse Cottages*, Sot's Hole Bank, Holbeach St Matthews, SPALDING, Lincs PE12 8EJ REF:1

Spectrum Software; tapes and discs, games and serious. SAE for massive list to Alan, 18, West Street, Geddington, Northants NN14 1BD REF:1

SINCLAIR SPECTRUM - WANTED

Wanted for Spectrum Plus 3 - a word processor with print out facility with or without spell checker as well. Contact Geoff 0171 474 (E London) 2869. Leave information on answerphone with phone number or address REF:1

For Spectrum +3 - a Multiface 3. Willing to pay a good price. Also a

copy of Zulu Wars on tape or disc. Willing to buy or swap for any games I may have of interest. Please contact Peter Stevens, 41, Nelson Street, Rosyth, FIFE KY11 2JU. Phone: 01383 419075 REF:1

Old platform and ladder games. Also any second-hand SAM software. Write to: John Turner, 58, Burnside, PARBOLD, Lancs WN8 7PE REF:1

ALL FORMATS - MISCELLANEOUS

For Sale: AZ-330 Olympus Super zoom camera with an infra-red remote unit, filters, soft case. £175. Would consider part exchange for PCW hardware. Phone: Ted 01275 (BRISTOL) 340565 REF:1

6 3" discs for sale @ £1 each inc p&p. Contact Mark Surridge 01206 (COLCHESTER, Essex) 792155 REF:1

3" discs available. Used on domestic (hobby) programs only. All re-formatted. Mostly with cases. 5 for £6 including postage. Would also suit any computers with a 3" drive. 01202 (BOURNMOUTH) 527730 REF:3

Drive belts for 3" mechanisms including CPCs, PCWs, PCs, Spectrum +3s. Include easy to follow fitting instructions. £2.45 inc P&P from AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED REF:1

BBC 5 1/4" educational original boxed programs suitable for primary school ages. 'Advanced Folio' (word processor, ESM) £5, 'Dinosaur Discovery' (adventure, 4mation) £2, 'Crack-it' (puzzles, ESM) £1, 'Table Adventures' (multiplication, Acornsoft) £1, 'Worlds Without Words' (adventure, 4mation) £3, 'Red Riding Hood' (maths, Selective) £1. Postage extra. Rod Holt 01703 (HYTHE, Hants) 846995. REF:3

Spectrum +3, PSU, light gun, games disks. Spectrum +2a, PSU, light gun, cassette games. 2 spare +3 PSUs, lots of books. CPC464, green monitor and manual. Brother HR5 printer, manual, transformer. The lot, £85. Buyer collects or pays

ALL FORMATS - MISCELLANEOUS - contd

postage. Write for full list. Alan, 18, Walton Drive, HARROW HA1 4UZ. REF:1

The UK CPM User Group (CPMUKUG) is now defunct, but the disc library is not. UK volumes are now up to number 130. For a catalogue, send a formatted disc to Rodney Hannis, 34, Falmouth Road, READING, RG2 8QR. 01734 876641. Please include return postage - no other charges. REF:C

Are you a user of an Amstrad NC100 or 200 notepad? If you believe there is some benefit to be gained by linking together such users please phone John Walker on 01752 (PLYMOUTH) 706266 and we will take it from there. REF:C

The **Protext User Club** is free to all users of the **Protext** family of programs on *all* computers. For further details, send 2 1st class stamps and/or a disc (any format) LABELLED WITH YOUR NAME ON IT to **Protext Software c/o 8BIT magazine**. REF:C

BBC Users? I have lots of software available on disk and tape. I would also like any magazines or anything for the BBC Micro or Master. Please send large SAE to 41, London Road, LICHFIELD, Staffs WS14 9EP or phone 01543 258032. Ask for George. ** Please Help ** REF:1

Did you know? The **IEBA** (The Independent Eight Bit Association) is a group active in promoting the use of 8-bit computers. The second edition of their **Directory of 8-bit Services** is now imminent and is free to members. Life Membership is £5. For further details send 2 1st class stamps to **IEBA Secretary Brian Watson c/o 8BIT magazine**. REF:C

If your floppies need upgrading, try **FFWD Services** for drives and services for CPCs, PCWs, and early PCs (1512s and 1640s). PO box 55, LUTON, Beds LU1 1XG. 01582 423295.

Penguin Software (run by the Simon Green), at 62, Nursery Road,

Knaphill, WOKING, Surrey GU21 2NW is apparently a wonderful PD library. (But which format? Just CPC? I Dunno - ed). REF:C

For SAM sales and support: Bob Brenchley, **Format Publications**, 34, Bourton Road, GLOUCESTER GL4 0LE. Send large SAE for details.

Einstein Magazine and All Micro News is the magazine of the **Steam Computer Society** - 10 years old and still going strong! Write to AE (Tony) Adams, *Ivy Cottage*, Church Road, New Romney, Kent TN28 8TY, enclosing a large envelope and two first class stamps for more details.

Computer Cavern/Capri Marketing carry quite a lot of unusual and hard-to-find items for your 8-bit computers. Their address is 9, Dean Street, MARLOW, Bucks SL7 3AA or phone 01628 891101.

Disk conversions: Amstrad 3" to 3½" to PC to Mac and back. Also high quality laser printing from any disk. For costs and details (charged by disk or time) contact Mike Harris at Disk Conversions, 9, Wootton Way, CAMBRIDGE, CB3 9LX. or telephone: 01223 363259.

The **Sharp Users Club**. Write to the secretary; Andrew Ferguson, 11, Harcourt Close, Henley-on-Thames, Oxon RG9 1UZ, or telephone 01491 574850 for further details.

Anglia Word Processing Centre (prop: Mr Braybrook) in NEWMARKET, Suffolk (Tel: 01638 665856) offer word processing, DTP and other office services. They seem to have a high regard for 8-bit computers and carry equipment, some ribbons, support, spares, books etc.

CPC plc, at *Component House*, Faraday Drive, Fulwood, PRESTON, Lancs PR2 4PP are the official suppliers of Amstrad, Sinclair, Amiga and all Spectrum spares and parts. Phone: 01772 654455.

FOR SALE: Citizen 120D+ dot matrix printer. Includes traction feeder and recent ribbon. £100ono.

Tel: 0161 439 (Stockport) 7034 from 7pm-10pm weekdays or weekends. REF:1

WANTED (for *any* 8-bit computer): information on music score-editing programs that support tablature for guitar. It is important that the application must also support conventional music symbols and typesetting rules (as per a music magazine). Phone 01469 574248 (office hours); 94 Margaret Street, IMMINGHAM, South Humberside DN40 1JY REF:1

FOR SALE: Atari XL/XE games for sale. Send SAE for list to: 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 260729 after 7pm REF:1

WANTED: A manual for Mannesmann Tally 290 printer. Please telephone first to 01253 (BLACKPOOL) 762092 REF:1

FOR SALE: CPC464, col/monitor, games £35; col/monitor for 464 £25; Dragon32, games £20; Spectrums £15-£30; Sharp MZ700 £10; Sharp MZ80B + disc drive + printer, £30; Einstein, software, colour monitor £30; BBC model B + disc drive, £35; Atari 8000XL, disc drive, tape etc £40; Oric1 £20; Toshiba MSX £20. Contact Ed Harris at Berks PCW Users Club 01344 428938. REF:1

FOR SALE. Star LC100 Colour Printer. Virtually as new; almost unused other than self-tests. 1 black ribbon + 2 4-colour ribbons, 1 metre Centronics cable, manual, original packing. £115. The intended use with existing inkjet not practicable. Purchaser to arrange the transport or shipping. Mr N Bannister, 86, King Edward Drive, GRAYS, Essex RM16 4AQ. (01375 374732) REF:1

Atari 800XE/XL games for sale. Please send SSAE for list to Tim Asson, 29, Curlew, Wilnecote, TAMWORTH, Staffs B77 5PL or phone 01827 (Tamworth) 260729 after 7pm REF:1

LOADS OF GOODIES for your Spectrum, Apricot, Games console,

ALL FORMATS - MISCELLANEOUS - contd

PC: Tapes, Discs, Roms, Books, Magazines and Hardware. For list send A5 SAE to: *Brympton Cottage*, Brunswick Road, WORTHING, Sussex BN11 3NQ.

Atari 800XL. Mint, 2 disc drives, Datacorder, loads of discs, plus spare keyboard. £40. APPLE IIE with loads of spares incl. (massive) service manuals and cards, discs, motherboard, etc. Write to: Mr N Woodbridge at 30, Hospital Street, NANTWICH, Cheshire CW5 5RP or phone 01270 628979 REF:1

CP/M Support: The PD Software Library, *Winscombe House*, Beacon Road, CROWBOROUGH, Sussex. (Tel: 01892 663298) owns large volumes of CP/M software from all over the globe. Send A5 SAE for their CP/M catalogue.

Trading Post, Victoria Road, SHIFNAL, Shropshire, TF11 8AF (01952 462135) have a variety of unused 8-bit computers available and even complete ones for spares from £10 Also software and hardware.

OJ Software keep good stocks of CPC kit, + joysticks/joypads, misc printers, 3" discs, ribbons and refills, CPC monitor to (loadsa computers) leads. Tel: 01257 421915.

Does anyone know of an Italian spellcheck program or Italian file for a spell checker? Write to Mr AJ Howard, 65, Altyre Way, BECKENHAM, Kent BR3 3ED (and 8BIT) REF:1

LAPCAT software and cable wanted to exchange **Protext** files between an NC100 and an Amiga 1200. Write to: Mr MJ Willcocks, 86, Rylands Road, Kennington, ASHFORD, Kent TN24 9LR or phone 01233 625711. REF:1

WANTED: Bootup software for an Apricot computer. The machine was made in 1983, has a start-up test ROM but needs a 3½" CP/M boot to bring it back to life. Any data will be useful. Contact Roger Henson, 88, Falkner Street, Gloucester, Glos GL1 4SJ. Tel: 01452 303390. REF:1

SMALL WORKS DEPT *The section for offers of help and repairs at fair prices.*

ACC/Tronics Ltd, Unit 6, Chancel Way, Moor Lane Ind Est, Witton, BIRMINGHAM B6 7AU (0121 344 4911 specialise in repairs, and upgrades to Amstrads and may be able to assist with other older computers.

For help on Spectrum problems, or general hints, tips, and advice on 8-bit emulators, write or telephone Alchemist Research, 62, Tithe Barn Lane, Woodhouse, SHEFFIELD S13 7LN. Telephone: 0114 269 7644. No costs, but if you can send an SAE and (where necessary) relevant blank media, it will help us to process your query much faster.

Commodore 64 Technical advice:- If you have a technical problem on a C64/128 write to; Andrew Fisher, the former technical consultant to **Commodore Format** and **Commodore Force** at 30, Rawlyn Road, CAMBRIDGE CB5 8NL England. Enclose a SAE or an Intl Reply Coupon for a fast reply.

For help on CPC-related problems, try Philip DiRichleau, (editor of **WACCI** magazine), Ground Floor Flat, 121, Ripon Road, LINCOLN Lincs LN5 7NG. Write to him explaining your problem, or you can phone him on 01522 511608. If Philip cannot help (and he probably will be able to) he will find someone who can.

Amstrad PCW8256/8512 parts for DIY repair: 3" drives, CPU boards, Power boards, Tubes, Keyboards, printers, etc. Also some books and software. Advice freely given. SAE please for lists and info. Ron King, 19, Stancliffe Road, BEDFORD, Beds MK41 9AN

Bull Electrical, at 250, Portland Road, HOVE, Sussex BN3 5QT (tel: 01273 203500) keep various parts, spares, 3½" drives etc for 8-bit computers.

Peak Print are specialist A5 printers to Clubs and Societies. Can print directly from some formats of discs. 12, South Fields Road, Oakley

Hay Bus Park, CORBY, Northants NN18 9EU. Tel: 01536 746334.

LATE ADDITIONS

Just one: this *replaces* Peter Curgenvin's advert in the **CPC - WANTED** section of this issue:

WANTED. ACUs Sep '90, Dec '84 to Feb '85, CWTA Vol 1 No8, Vol 2 No10, Amtix 1, 4, 5, 11 to 14. Plus other CPC paper and disc magazines. Also whatever *you* want in exchange for a full set of AA or just 1 & 2. Peter Curgenvin, *The Hollyar*, Bay Road, Trevone Bay, Near Padstow, Cornwall PL28 8QZ. Tel: 01841 520875REF:3

PS

If any computer group, club, publisher, PD librarian, retail supplier, or whatever would like to submit a statement of what they offer, I will be pleased to publish it here (possibly with additional comment) in **8BIT**, after the small advertisements, as space allows.

The intention is to offer '8-bit computer activists' an open platform to speak which stands somewhere between editorial and advertising.

COPY REQUIREMENTS

A recently revised printed copy of **8BIT**'s requirements for all advertising copy and other articles which are to be submitted for publishing in the magazine is now available in return for for a large SAE to Brian Watson at the usual address.

There are some simplifications and standardisations and other updates in this version, which may save contributors wasting their time on producing copy which cannot subsequently be used or re-sized in time for a particularly preferred publication date.

NEXT COPY DATE

The next copy date for issue 16, which will be published early in April 1996, is 15th March.

THE LEGAL STUFF: Unless explicitly stated otherwise, copyright on all content of **8BIT** or its predecessor **8BIT Mart**, is held by Brian Watson and/or the relevant author, but may be freely reproduced as long as **8BIT**'s name, full address, and phone number are credited as the source. I can supply copies of any articles on disc, but phone to agree a disc format which suits both.

DISCLAIMER: All contents of **8BIT** are published on the basis that they are opinion or believed true at the time of publication. I'm doing my best, but no liability can be accepted by Brian Watson or contributors for any loss or damage, distress or upset, however caused. I am careful to try to supply a realistic value to any hunch, belief, opinion, rumour or fact but clangers can still happen. So, "Sorry if I get something wrong, please tell me if/when it happens so that I can set the record straight."

THE REAL WORLD: Pressures on my time of family, business, hobbies and deadlines mean individual replies to letters cannot be guaranteed, promptly or at all. I'm not (I hope) rude, I'm just a very busy person.

CONFIDENTIALITY: Details of **8BIT**'s subscribers are not divulged without their express or strongly implied permission. Some CPC groups are pooling resources to contact those CPC users who may not now be in touch with a user group or other support. **8BIT** is participating, but confidentiality is respected by handling all confidential information 'in house'.

HELP, SUPPORT, and LOW-COST REPAIRS: There is still an opportunity for a network of low-cost repairers to do small jobs on older computers, such as replacing drive belts or drives (keeping old parts for spares), and fixing other faults economically. With supplies of older computer kit (especially peripherals) dwindling, it is often cheaper to replace an item than have it repaired, resulting in the working parts of the failed item being lost when it goes in the bin. To minimise postage costs, especially on larger items like monitors and keyboards, I am prepared to offer a free courier service throughout East Anglia, the East Midlands, and London (North of the Thames). **8BIT**'s advertising pages, especially the **MISCELLANEOUS** and **SMALL WORKS** section, are the best places for appeals for (or offers of) help finding a low-cost solution, and I assume permission to publish is implied with any pleading letter received unless otherwise stated. Also, Philip DiRichleau of the CPC user group **WACCI** has volunteered his help to find parts, repairers, and help generally on *any* computer. His time is precious so write in the first place to Ground Floor Flat, 121, Ripon Street, LINCOLN, Lincs. LN5 7NG.

COMING NEXT TIME: All the stuff which I didn't have space for this issue. Copy date for the next **8BIT** is 15th March 1996, and issue 16 will be published at the beginning of April 1997.

The Great British Word Processor!

Protex is the fastest and most complete word processor on the Amstrad PCW; and it also happens to be the best value word processor on the Amstrad CPC too. **Protex** is used to produce most of **8BIT**. On one disc, the program features include:

- * logical keystrokes * "plain English" commands * free tutor file on disc * fast text handling
- * Network, hard disc, MicroDesign and LocoScript compatibility * mail-merging and spell-checking *at no extra cost*
- * *free printer support for any printer*; use your printer's built-in fonts or colour capability without any additional expense
- * *free* user support is included in the purchase price, and the **Protex** helpline operates at normal telephone rates.

- * **Protex** handles printing in columns and colour with ease * simply configured for more advanced purposes
- * **Protex** can easily produce ASCII files to let you transfer the text between computers, either by software or by e-mail
- * the *free Protex* Users' Club is available to all **Protex** users for the open exchange of tips, templates, and information

Protex has had 12 years continuous development. Despite being packed with advanced features, above all, **Protex** remains fast and very easy to use. It is a tribute to the programmers that the user-friendly 'look and feel' of the program has been maintained throughout its development. Because of **Protex**'s wide range of features, it is impossible to cover everything here. Further information is available from Brian Watson at **Protex Software**, Harrowden, 39, High Street, Sutton, ELY, Cambs CB6 2RA, or you can phone 01353 777006 (from 6pm-9pm weekdays, or any time at weekends). **CP/M Protex**, the 'one-disc' word processing solution, costs just £25. It is available from **ComSoft**, 10 McIntosh Court, Wellpark, GLASGOW G31 2HW. Orders may be placed by phone on 0141 554 4735, quoting credit card details. Please give computer model and drive A: size when ordering.

